

Henneberg-Lehmann Award for Dr. Fenja Klevenhusen

BfR scientist honoured for her research in animal nutrition

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Which plant toxins can be rendered harmless by the naturally occurring bacteria in the rumen of a cow? This question, and other scientific questions, are what Dr. Fenja Klevenhusen aims to answer. In 2020, the agrobiologist was honoured with the advancement award from the Henneberg-Lehmann Foundation for her research findings.

Dr. Klevenhusen has been working for the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in the 'Feed and Feed Additives' unit in the 'Food Chain Safety' department since 2018. She primarily deals with issues concerning the quality and safety of basic feeds, and the use of *in vitro* methods such as the RUSITEC system for simulating ruminal fermentation as an alternative to animal experiments. One focus of her scientific work for the BfR is investigations on the transfer of toxic secondary phytonutrients from feed into foods of animal origin. Her research findings are an important part of risk assessment in this regard, as they contribute significantly towards the understanding of (microbial) metabolism in the rumen, possible intake of these substances into the blood circulation and finally, the transfer into foods of animal origin. At the BfR, she also co-ordinates the experts' committee for replacement and supplementary methods in animal nutrition, as part of the activities of the BfR Feed and Animal Nutrition Committee.

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the Georg August University of Göttingen has honoured Dr. Klevenhusen with the 2020 award by decision of the Henneberg-Lehmann Foundation's board of trustees, in recognition of her 'innovative feed science and nutritional physiology investigations on the care of ruminants and methane emission from animal husbandry'. Dr. Klevenhusen led the investigations at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna from 2005 to 2018. Professor Henner Simianer, the dean of the Georg August University of Göttingen, presented the Henneberg-Lehmann Awards and the main award to the award winners at the academic ceremony of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences on 3 March 2020. Professor Hans Schenkel, Maria Sibylla Merian Fellow of the BfR, gave the laudatory speech for Dr. Klevenhusen.

The Henneberg-Lehmann Award has been given out every year since 1955, by decision of the Henneberg-Lehmann Foundation board of trustees at the Agricultural Sciences Faculty of the Georg August University of Göttingen, for outstanding scientific performances in the field of animal nutrition and feed science. The award stems from two outstanding animal nutritionists of the 19th and 20th centuries who hailed from Göttingen. Wilhelm Henneberg (1825 - 1890) and his student Franz Lehmann (1860 - 1942) developed essential principles for modern-day animal nutrition and feed science. For example, the analytical chemistry characterisation of fractions of value-determining feed ingredients, which is known today as the 'Weender analysis', can be traced back to their works.



About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. It advises the German federal government and German federal states ("Laender") on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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